



# ISPS Weekly Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 5: Friday 26 September, 2008

**Vision:**

ISPS will strive to be one of the premier international schools.

**Mission:**

ISPS will provide an outstanding educational programme for both international and resident families who want their children to pursue higher education.

## From the Director

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Republic Day with your family.

As you have likely heard, the official holiday for **Eid-ul-Fitr** is on Wednesday next week. Last academic year the ISPS Board of Directors scheduled the Eid holiday for Thursday, but now will move it to Wednesday. This poses the problem of students being off on Wednesday, back in school on Thursday and out of school again on Friday. Speaking with parents, I have learned that many families have scheduled vacations around our calendar and will not be able to change them. As a result, the Board of Directors has approved that we move the Curriculum Day scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> to next Thursday. This means staff will have Wednesday off in honor of Eid and will have curriculum work days on Thursday and Friday. **Students will be off Wednesday through Sunday** and November 14<sup>th</sup> will be a regular school day. Please call the school if you have any questions or concerns regarding this change. I apologize for

the late notice but circumstances did not allow us to make this decision before this time. (Note, this message was also sent to you yesterday in an effort to get the news to you at the earliest date possible).

The Parent Teacher Organization had a meeting with Room Parents this week. It is great to see so many parents volunteering to help out with class activities and I encourage all interested persons to get involved in the PTO. Don't forget our ***Welcome Back event takes place on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00.*** Nearly 400 people have sent an RSVP that they will attend so it should be a great time. Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for the International Food Festival on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

ISPS will be administering the International School Assessment on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to students in grades three to ten. The ISA is an external assessment that gauges student mastery of concepts in math and language. Student results are compared to those of other international students

and provide an indication if a student is performing at grade level or not. The results usually arrive at the school approximately six months after the test is administered. Note, too, that the SAT will be given on October 4 and November 1. Please see the College Corner later in this newsletter for details.

In addition to these standardized tests, ISPS will be adopting a new external assessment tool this year, Measures of Academic Progress. This is an adaptive test done on the computer and provides the school with results in 2-3 days. The test does not measure mastery but rather gauges a student's instructional level. We will be piloting this assessment this year with students in grades 2-6 and grade 9. We will provide you with more information about this new assessment tool in the next few weeks.

There will be no newsletter next week due to the holiday. I wish all of the members of the Muslim community a joyous Eid-Ul-Fitr.

Eric Larson

### Dates for your Diary:

- Sep 27 "Welcome Event" for all families 2-5pm
- Sep 30 MS Q1 Progress Reports
- Oct 1 Eid-ul-Fitr (National Holiday)
- Oct 2 Curriculum Day (No Classes)
- Oct 3 Curriculum Day (No Classes)
- Oct 7-8 ISA Testing (ES, MS, HS)
- Oct 17 ES Progress Reports
- Oct 20-24 International Week
- Oct 25 International Food Festival
- Oct 28 Divali (National Holiday)
- Oct 31 End of Q1: MS & HS

### What's Inside

College Corner	2-3
Announcements	3
Athletics	4-5
International Food Festival	6
Tumbling Club & Beginner Gymnastics	6
Science Corner	7-8
Easy Print Page:	9
Cafeteria Menu	
Dates for your Diary	
ISPS Welcome Event	
Elementary Notes	10
October Calendar	11



*Eid Greetings to the Muslim Community*

*Celebrating 15 Years of Excellence*

*Website: <http://www.isps.edu.tt>*



# COLLEGE CORNER

## September: Things to do



### College Session Number 1:

Lots of parents may be new to the whole issue of college applications and everything that is involved with it. To help put things into perspective, there will be an informal "College Session" on **Tuesday September 30, 2008 at 6:00pm**. Yes! this is next Tuesday. I know it is short notice and if you are new to the process but can't make next Tuesday, please give me a call (or email me at [lmoore@isps.edu.tt](mailto:lmoore@isps.edu.tt)) and we can set up an individual meeting (where you can ask questions without feeling too uncomfortable). *This leads me to my next item:*

### Meeting with the counselor

During September and early October, senior parents need to be speaking with their seniors in order to establish a timeline for their specific choices of colleges. To this end I do invite all families to meet with me. Remember, I am here to give support wherever needed so that the college application process is a good and successful one.

### Short list of Colleges

Presently, the seniors are receiving support in doing their research on colleges. By early to mid October, they should be creating a short list of colleges in which they are interested and which meet their educational needs.

### Recommendations

However, they do not have to wait until their list of colleges is finalized to start asking for recommendations from teachers. The request for recommendations should start now, giving teachers ample time to write good recommendations.

### SAT and ACT Registration Deadlines

Below is a list of Deadlines for both the SAT and ACT:

#### SAT

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
Oct 4	September 9 <sup>th</sup> (but students can still do the exam as standby candidates)
Nov 1	September 26 (this is this Friday)
Dec 6	November 5
Jan 24	December 26



**There are SATs in May and June, but these are of little use to seniors who intend to go to University in September 2009.**

#### ACT

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
Oct 25	September 19 (there is no standbys for the ACT outside of the USA)
Dec 13	November 2
Feb 9	January 4



**Again, there is an ACT exam in June, but this will also be of little use to seniors who intend to go to University in September 2009.**

## COLLEGE CORNER CONTINUED



### College Fair

The US Embassy's annual College Fair will be on October 18-19 here at ISPS. Please put these dates into your diary.

### College Visits

To date I have 5 University visits to let you know about. Please take note:

- ◇ York University : October 6 at 2:30pm.
- ◇ Guelph University (Canada): October 6 at 2:30pm.
- ◇ Adelphi University (USA): October 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00noon
- ◇ Northeastern University (USA): October 31 at 12:00 noon
- ◇ Brock University (Canada): November 4 at 12:15pm

**\*\*Please note that the first two University visits are carded for the same day\*\***

Regards,

Louis Moore: Guidance Counselor

# Announcements



**PTO Uniform Sale: Great Prices—70% OFF!**

**Buy, Trade, Sell or Donate**

**Saturday 27th Sept @ the ISPS Family Event 2:00-5:00pm**

**Contact: Jo-Anne Fondyga @ 632-3115/756-6693 for further information**



**SUPPORT & SAVE..... ALL FUNDS GO TOWARDS PTO PROJECTS!**



## American Women's Club (AWC)

The American Women's Club of Trinidad and Tobago is hosting a Black and White Party Cruise on Saturday, October 11, from 7:00 to 11:00 pm on the Pier One Vessel. Tickets are 400 TTD, all-inclusive. Attire is black and white, dressy casual. Come see the lights of Port of Spain from the sea! Everyone is welcome. For more information or ticket sales, please contact Janna Brzezinski at 633-2220 ([jannaleeb@hotmail.com](mailto:jannaleeb@hotmail.com)) or Sherry Wilkins at 633-9940 ([sherrywilkins@yahoo.com](mailto:sherrywilkins@yahoo.com)).

# Athletics

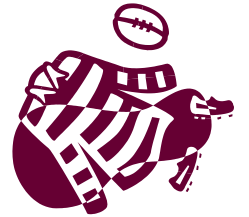


## Rugby:



*Come out and support our Rugby players as they prepare for the season:*

- September 22<sup>nd</sup> : 3:15pm U-17s 3 Friendly Games (Savannah Centre)
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> : 3:15pm U-17s 3 Friendly Games (Savannah Centre)
- September 26<sup>th</sup> : 3:15pm U-14s 3 Friendly Games (Savannah Centre)
- September 27<sup>th</sup> : 10:00am Supporters/Volunteers Meeting (Caribs Club House)
- September 29<sup>th</sup> : 3:15pm U-17s 3 Friendly Games (Savannah Centre)
- September 30<sup>th</sup> : 3:15pm U-17s 3 Friendly Games (Savannah Centre)



The ISPS Caimans will be participating in the Friendly Games. If you would like more information please feel free to contact me (Ashmir Ali) @ 620-6866 or [aali@isps.edu.tt](mailto:aali@isps.edu.tt)

## Volleyball:

Our volleyball teams are hard at work for the Secondary Schools Volleyball League. All volleyball players will be able to participate. The teams for CAISSA have been selected and the coaches are optimistic that they will maintain our tradition of sportsmanship, fair play and competitiveness.

### **Training Schedules for team sports:**

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Girls Soccer 2:30-3:30		Girls Soccer 2:30-3:30	Boys Soccer 2:30-3:30	Boys Soccer 2:30-3:30
Basketball MS/HS Girls 3:30-4:30	Volleyball Boys and Girls 3:30-5:30	Volleyball Boys and Girls 3:30-5:30	Volleyball Boys and Girls 3:30-5:30	Basketball MS/HS Boys 2:30-3:30
Rugby 3:30-5:00			Rugby 3:30-5:00	



### CAISSA DATES:

CAISSA Volleyball is in Ecuador from November 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>

CAISSA Boys Basketball and Girls Soccer is in Dominican Republic from March 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>

CAISSA Boys Soccer and Girls Basketball is in Trinidad from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>

***Only students from Grade 8 to 12 will be considered for CAISSA Teams***

# Athletics

## After School Activities:

Gymnastics, Karate, ES Soccer and Sailing are all filled. Parents are reminded that no refunds will be made after Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September. As a result of the size of the classes (especially in Gymnastics and Karate) parents are kindly asked to pick up their kids after classes. Only students and instructors are allowed in the gym (for Gymnastics) and the café/ Dance Studio (for Karate).

## Congratulations to:



**Tennis: Keegan De Silva** placed second in the Boys Under 18 Sagcor Tennis Championships over the weekend and first in the Doubles.



**Karate: Daniyelle Bennett** placed second in Kata ages 6-8 in the female category of the Caribbean Sunrise Showdown Battle of the Arts Tournament held on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

## Caiman Sports Clubs:

*Join our Clubs! Learn the skills with national coaches and have fun with family and friends.*

*Students, staff members, parents and persons in the community are invited to join our sports clubs.*

Following is a schedule for the clubs:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Volleyball 5:30-7:30pm	Tumbling/ Gymnastics 5:30-7:00pm	Volleyball 5:30-7:30pm	Tumbling/ Gymnastics 5:30-7:00pm	Soccer 5:30-7:30pm	Basketball 10:00-1:00pm	Basketball 10:00-1:00pm
	Table Tennis 5:30-7:30pm	Soccer 5:30-7:30pm	Table Tennis 5:30-7:30pm		Tumbling/ Gymnastics 2:30-6:00pm	
			Badminton 5:30-7:30pm			

COACHES

Daryl Davis	725-1485	Girls Volleyball
David Camacho	782-9357	Boys Volleyball
Junior Arismandez	760-1278	Rugby
Albert Sprott	633-4777 ext 135	Basketball
Ricardo Lue Shue	633-4777 ext 135	Basketball, Gymnastics
Teleshia Joseph	633-4777 ext 135	Soccer
Marlon Phillip	731-3349	Soccer
Karl Brown	325-7658	Soccer
Andrew Francis	633-4777 ext 135	Soccer, Water Polo, Swimming

For more information contact Ashmir Ali (620 6866 or aali@isps.edu.tt).

*Ashmir Ali: Athletic Director*



## International Food Festival : Sat. 25th October

### Tickets will go on sale SOON!

Each year ISPS participates in International Week. The week will culminate in the annual International Food Festival, held in the gym. This is a school-wide event. We have 54 different countries represented this year in our student body; let's see if we can get that many booths this year at the food festival.

Basically, there are "booths" lined up around the gym, each serving an appetizer-sized portion of a sweet or savory dish from their country. Some people dress in traditional garments; others just use their country's national colors. Everyone decorates, and there is an activity area for the children. Some countries even provide entertainment. This is all voluntary. We sell tickets to the ISPS family and their friends. Last year we sold over 900 tickets!

*We are looking for coordinators (or co-coordinators) to help us get organized. The coordinator will be provided with a list of people who signed up to assist.*

The following countries are represented thus far:

Canada	Indonesia	Scotland	
Colombia	Italy (interest)	Spain	Syria
England	Japan (interest)	Trinidad and Tobago	
France	Lebanon	United States	
India	Panama	Venezuela	



We currently have the names of 52 people who are interested in helping. THAT'S GREAT! but, we need MORE. If you would be willing to represent your country or a country that you've lived in or a country that you just love, then please contact one of us listed below:

Lisa Davis at 497-2976 or  
Gayle Pickering at 708-7673

or E-mail

[lisa@thedavisfive.com](mailto:lisa@thedavisfive.com) or  
[sgpickering@hotmail.com](mailto:sgpickering@hotmail.com)



## ISPS Tumbling Club

### Come and Join!!!

**Open to MS/HS Students and Non Students of ISPS**

**Days:** Tuesdays & Thursdays

**Venue:** ISPS Gymnasium

**Times:** 5:30-7:00pm

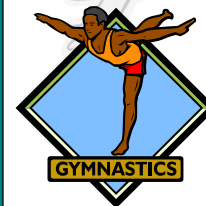
**Duration:** 10 weeks

**Cost:**

**Registration Fee:** \$25.00

**One day a week:** \$300.00

**Both days a week:** \$450.00



## Beginner Gymnastics

**Open to ES Students and Non Students of ISPS**

**Day:** Saturdays

**Venue:** ISPS Gymnasium

**Times:** 2:30-3:30pm

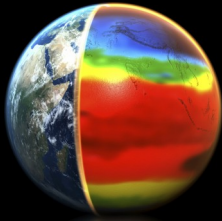
**Duration:** 10 weeks

**Cost:** \$350.00

To register for any of these programs, please contact Mr. Lue Shue @

633-4777 or e-mail

[rlueshue@isps.edu.tt](mailto:rlueshue@isps.edu.tt)



# Science Corner

*Welcome to the first Science Corner of the new academic year!*

Firstly I would like to welcome a new teacher to the Science department. Mr. Nick Yaremchuk joins us from Canada and will be taking on the role of Environmental Science teacher. He has started the year with enthusiasm and you can read on to see what he has been doing in class! I would also like to welcome our new director Mr. Eric Larson and all our new families. For those of you who are new to the school, the Science Corner is a monthly article that will give you a little insight into what is happening in our Science classes from K- 12. So here goes for September!

## *High School*

### Environmental Science

Environmental Science students began the course by examining how we define the terms that identify this course. Both “environment” and “science” are interpreted in a wide variety of ways, and the goal of this course is to understand how science can be used to better understand and mitigate human impact on the natural world.

The course is now examining ways that science can be used to quantify human effects on the natural world, with a particular focus on “ecological footprint” methods of analysis. If you want to take a quiz to measure your effect on the natural world, take the quiz at <http://www.footprintnetwork.org/>.



### AP Biology

AP Biology students started off the year by extracting enzymes from cow liver and performing assays to determine the rate of an enzyme catalyzed reaction. This is the first of 12 labs required by the college board and proved to be very successful indeed.



### Biology

Meanwhile Biology students started the year becoming Scientists by designing experiments and testing their hypotheses. The challenge was to test the effect of acid rain on germinating seeds. There were some very interesting results indeed!

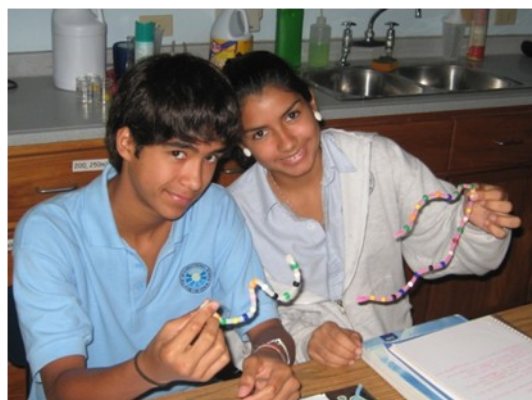


# Science Corner Continued



*Modeling is a tool that I use very regularly to enhance student understanding.*

*Here we see some students modeling the 4 levels of protein structure.*



## *Middle School*

When I took a stroll through middle school, it was apparent that modeling was going on there too. I was impressed with Ms. Antar's Grade 8 Science class making models of the shoulder joint and arm. As you can see there were some very innovative models!



## *Grade 6*

6<sup>th</sup> grade is reviewing food chains and the more complex food webs, including the transfer of energy in ecosystems. The interrelatedness of all organisms means that a disruption at any level can have far-reaching effects. (Ask any 6<sup>th</sup> grader about guano, bats, and a cave food web!!)

Well that just gives you a little insight into the commitment of our teachers to enhance the learning process here at I.S.P.S. You can look forward to more in the coming articles. Until next month, keep safe!

**Maeve O Donovan: Science Dept. Head.**



# EASY PRINT PAGE



## Dates for your Diary:

- Sep 27 "Welcome Event" for all families
- Sep 30 MS Q1 Progress Reports
- Oct 1 **Eid-ul-Fitr (National Holiday)**
- Oct 2 Curriculum Day (No Classes)
- Oct 3 Curriculum Day (No Classes)
- Oct 7-8 ISA Testing (ES, MS, HS)
- Oct 17 ES Progress Reports
- Oct 20-24 International Week
- Oct 25 International Food Festival
- Oct 28 **Divali (National Holiday)**
- Oct 31 End of Q1: MS & HS

**Don't Forget!**  
**JSPS**

**Welcome Event**  
**TOMORROW!!**

**Saturday 27 September**

**2:00pm-5:00pm**

**We look forward to seeing you and your families there...**



# Cafeteria

## Menu

**Sept 29th - Oct 3rd**

**Mon 29th:** Stir Fry Chicken, Sweet and Sour Fish, Snowflake Rice, Broccoli, Tossed Salad & Fresh Fruit Juice

**Tue 30th: SOUPS:** Chicken Noodle, Beef and Wanton. Corn Chowder, Bread Rolls, Fruit Jello & Fresh Fruit Juice

**Wed 24th: EID-UL-FITR (No School)**

**Thu 25th: Curriculum Day (No Classes)**

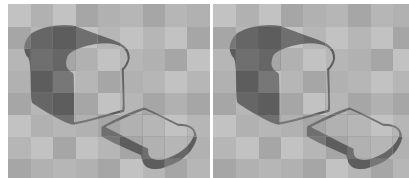
**Fri 26th: Curriculum Day (No Classes)**

*Note: Vegetarian meals are available upon request. Students & Staff who suffer from allergies or have dietary requirements, please let the café know in advance so that they can try to facilitate you.*

**Prices for Lunch: Small: \$20.70 Large: \$25.30**

**Other Available Items:** Sandwiches, Fresh Fruit Juices, Milk Drinks, Pre-packed Juices, Cut Fruits, Freshly Baked Pastries & Snack Items

***Freshly baked breads for parents & staff will be on sale in the Café every Friday afternoon***



# Elementary Notes



September 26, 2008 Volume 6 Issue 3

Dear Parents,

Thank you for making the effort to come out and hear about your child's program on Curriculum Night. We had 134 families in attendance and we have appreciated your feedback from the event (see survey results).

Grades 3-5 students will be taking the International Schools Assessment (ISA) test on October 7th and 8th. This test is an assessment program specifically developed to measure the skills and achievement level of international school students in reading, writing, and math literacy.

Progress reports will be distributed on October 17th. Any student who has been enrolled in school over the last six to eight weeks will receive a report. Our teachers are always willing to meet with you to give you feedback on your child's progress during the term. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher for an appointment.

We understand that many parents like to wait around in the mornings until 7:30 a.m. when the bell rings. However, we would appreciate if parents could drop students off in the Green Court and leave before the bell rings. Thank you for your cooperation.

Enjoy the weekend.

Suzette Julien

## 2008 Curriculum Night Survey Results

	SA	A	D	SD	NA
<b>Q1. The Class teacher's information was helpful for me</b>	68%	32%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Q 2. The specialists' information was helpful for me.</b>	43%	39%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Q 3. The classroom teacher's expectations were clear</b>	69%	30%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Q4. After attending the session, I have a better understanding of my child's program</b>	59%	40%	0%	0%	0%

## CALENDAR

<b>October 1</b>	Eid Ul Fitr ( <i>National Holiday</i> )
<b>October 2&amp;3</b>	Curriculum Days
<b>October 7&amp;8</b>	ISA Tests
<b>October 17</b>	Progress Reports Distributed
<b>October 21</b>	Coffee Morning with the Principal 7:30 a.m.
<b>October 20-24</b>	International Week
<b>October 30-31</b>	PYP Team Visit

**PYP CORNER....**As the date for Primary Years Programme authorization visit draws nearer, teachers continue to refine their teaching strategies and update their planners to make the teaching and learning process more successful and meaningful. You would also have noticed a greater drive toward promoting the learner profile and PYP attitudes as we strive to make our students become more internationally-minded. We hope that you received adequate information on Curriculum Night to get a better understanding of what we do. Teachers will continue to keep you informed of the curriculum, but if you still have questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Most grades will be completing their first unit of inquiry by the end of next week. Students will be engaged in preparing their summative assessments before beginning the second unit of inquiry in early October. For students new to the program, we feel confident that as they delve more into the inquiry-based process, their level of understanding and competence will improve. We also look forward to your assistance in this process.

In our next newsletter we will outline the schedule for the upcoming IB PYP visit.

**Angela Shahien (PYP Coordinator)**

## PYP Words for October: Open-minded and Tolerance

Open-minded students understand and appreciate their own culture and personal histories; are open to the perspective, values and traditions of others; are willing to grow from the experience of evaluating different points of view.

Tolerance: Being sensitive about differences and diversity in the world and being responsive to the needs of others.



# OCTOBER 2008

## International School of Port of Spain 2008—2009 School Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September 28	September 29	September 30 MS Progress Reports	1 Eid-UI-Fitr (National Holiday)	2 Curriculum Day	3 Curriculum Day	4 SATs 8:00am—1:30pm
5	6	7 ISA testing Grades 3—9	8 ISA testing Grades 3—9	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 ES Progress Reports	18 US Embassy College Fair—Gym 10:00am—1:00pm 3:00pm—6:00pm <b>PSATs</b> 8:00am—1:30pm
19 US Embassy College Fair—Gym 10:00am—1:00pm 3:00pm—6:00pm	20	21	22	23	24	25 International Food Festival  <b>ACTs</b> 8:00am—11:45am
<b>International Week</b>						
26	27	28 Divali (National Holiday)	29	30	31 End of 1st QTR.	November 1 SAT's